

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 11592 021046Z

10

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01

PRS-01 DOTE-00 FMC-01 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 /109 W

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R 020918Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6555

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11592

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ID

SUBJECT: PERTAMINA'S LEASED TANKERS

1. SINAR HARAPAN, INDONESIAN-LANGUAGE AFTERNOON DAILY, HAS CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORY SEPTEMBER 1 ON SUBJECT TWO PERTAMINA TANKERS DETAINED BY SINGAPORE HIGH COURT. ARTICLE, WHICH IS REHASH OF PREVIOUS STRAITS-TIMES STORY, METIONS THAT TWO PERTAMINA VESSELS, PERMINA 108 AND SAMUDRA 14, HAVE BEEN ATTACHED IN LEGAL ACTION FOR ALLEGED NON-PAYMENT OF FUNDS ON CONTRACT COVERING THIRD VESSEL WHICH IS IRON-ICALLY NAMED, "IBNU." COMPANY IS REPORTED TO BE MARTROPICO COMPANIA NAVIERA S.A. AND SUIT CLAIMS PAYMENTS OF OVER \$7.2 MILLION ON IBNU VESSEL ARE OWED. PERTAMINA HAS SUB-SEQUENTLY APPLIED FOR COURT ORDER TO SET ASIDE SHIPOWNER'S ORIGINAL SUIT; PERTAMINA APPARENTLY ARGUING COURT DOES NOT HAVE ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION IN CASE OF THESE TWO TANKERS SINCE SUIT INVOLVES "IBNU", NOT TWO VESSELS ATTACHED.

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PAGE 02 JAKART 11592 021046Z

2. TANKER IN QUESTION, "IBNU" (134,000 DWT) IS PART OF GROUP OF FOUR SHIPS CHARTERED BY EX-PERTAMINA PRESIDENT IBNU FROM MARTROPICO IN SEPTEMBER, 1970. DEALS WERE ARRANGED UNDER HIRE PURCHASE CONTRACTS ON TEN-YEAR BASIS. "IBNU" FREQUENTLY PLYS INDONESIAN WATERS AND OFTEN CARRIES CRUDE TO JAPAN AND US. (COMMENT: ACCORDING TO SOURCE IN PERTAMINA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, NO APPROVAL FROM EITHER GOI OR BOARD WAS EVER OBTAINED ON THESE CONTRACTS. END COMMENT.) MARTROPICO IS BELIEVED TO BE AFFILIATED WITH INTERMARITIME COMPANY OF GENEVA.

3. THIS MORNING'S INDONESIAN-LANGUAGE DAILY, KOMPAS, ALSO HAS FRONT PAGE STORY ON SAME SUBJECT. HEADLINE, HOWEVER, STATES THAT TANKERS HAVE BEEN "RELEASED" AFTER FOUR WEEKS DETENTION IN SINGAPORE. STORY QUOTES TELEX SENT BY PERTAMINA REP CURRENTLY IN SINGAPORE TO JAKARTA AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION. REST OF STORY COVERS ESSENTIALLY SAME GROUND AS SINAR HARAPAN ARTICLE.

4. BOTH ARTICLES MAKE ATTEMPT TO LINK CURRENT SINGAPORE TANKER CASE WITH TOKYO LNG TANKER DISCUSSIONS. KOMPAS, IN FACT, CLAIMS "IBNU" IS ACTUALLY NINTH LNG VESSEL TO BE USED FOR TRANSPORTATION OF LNG TO JAPAN. COMMENT: STATEMENTS LIKE LATTER ILLUSTRATE AMOUNT OF CONFUSION THAT EXISTS OVER WHOLE QUESTION OF PERTAMINA'S INVOLVEMENT WITH LNG AND CRUDE TANKERS. UNTIL AIR IS CLEARED ON THIS SUBJECT, WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT FURTHER STORIES ON THESE ITEMS. END COMMENT.

5. SUBSEQUENT TO TYPING FOREGOING, ECM COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF RETURNED FROM COURTESY CALL ON DEPUTY GOVERNOR BANK INDONESIA (CENTRAL BANK) WHO CORRECTED COUNSELOR'S OBSERVATION CONCERNING OUTSTANDING COURT CASES INVOLVING PERTAMINA TANKERS, STATING THAT "SINGAPORE PROBLEM HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF." THIS, THEREFORE, CONFIRMS REPORT NOTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE.
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, PRESS COMMENTS, DEBT REPAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JAKART11592
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760333-0458
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760998/aaaadgdy.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERTAMINA'S LEASED TANKERS
TAGS: ENRG, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006